

REMARKS

Applicants have studied the Office Action dated April 7, 2005. It is submitted that the application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Claims 3-10, 15- 22, 24-27, and 29-32 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, and 28 are cancelled. Claims 11, 12, and 23 are withdrawn. Claims 3-10, 15-22, 24, and 26 have been amended. Claims 29-32 have been added. Support for newly added claims 29-32 can be found on page 16, paragraph [0053] of the specification as originally filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicants wish to thank Examiner Jagan for indicating the allowable subject matter of claims 7 and 19. Applicants have elected to amend claims 7 and 19 solely for the purpose of expediting the patent application process in a manner consistent with PTO's Patent Business Goals (PBG), 65 Fed. Reg. 54603 (September 8, 2000). Specifically claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim, and claim 19 has been amended to overcome the Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph and rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim. The Applicants submit that claims 7 and 19 are now in a condition of allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

In addition, claims 3-6 and 8-10 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 7 and claims 15-18 and 20-22 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 19. The Applicants submit that claims 3-6, 8-10, 15-18, and 20-22 are now in condition of allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, independent claims 24 and 26 have been amended to contain all of the recitations of allowable claims 7 and 19. It is submitted that claims 24 and 26 are now in condition for allowance for the same reasons claims 7 and 19 are allowable.

CONCLUSION

In this Response, Applicants have amended certain claims. In light of the Office Action, Applicants believe these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

Applicants acknowledge the continuing duty of candor and good faith to disclosure of information known to be material to the examination of this application. In accordance with 37 CFR §1.56, all such information is dutifully made of record. The foreseeable equivalents of any territory surrendered by amendment are limited to the territory taught by the information of record. No other territory afforded by the doctrine of equivalents is knowingly surrendered and everything else is unforeseeable at the time of this amendment by the Applicants and their attorneys.

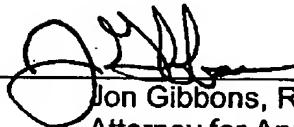
Applicants respectfully submit that all of the grounds for rejection stated in the Examiner's Office Action have been overcome, and that all claims in the application are allowable. No new matter has been added. It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully requested.

PLEASE CALL the undersigned if that would expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 17, 2005

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